



USDA-NASS

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

Issue: 03-04 (0279-0394) Released: February 26, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Values
Alfalfa Seed Production
Crop County Estimates Available
U.S. & Canadian Cattle Inventory
U.S. Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
U.S. Milk Production
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
Grazing Fee Rates
Egg Production

2002 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2002 **all wheat** crop rose 54% from 2001 to \$466.7 million. Total production was up 14% and the season average price increased \$1.11 per bushel. The 2002 season average price for all wheat was \$4.25 per bushel compared with \$3.14 last season.

The value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop increased 39% from last year to \$81.9 million. The preliminary season average price was up 83 cents to \$3.90 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was at \$326.4 million, up 63% from 2001. The season average price increased \$1.24 per bushel to \$4.30. **Durum wheat's** season average price increased 70 cents from 2001 to \$4.50 per bushel. The total crop value of \$58.5 million was up 30% from 2001 and is the highest durum wheat value of production on record.

The value of Montana's **oats** crop increased 15% from 2001 to \$5.39 million. The season average price increased 4 cents to \$2.00 per bushel. Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at \$115.7 million, up 48% from the previous

year. The 2002 season average price, at \$2.90, was up 25 cents from 2001.

Montana's value of production for **flaxseed** increased 53% to \$1.2 million dollars. The price per bushel increased \$1.80 to \$6.15. **Dry edible beans** value of production was estimated at \$5.5 million, down 16% from 2001. The average price dropped \$2.10 per cwt to \$15.20.

Value of production for **dry edible peas** in Montana, at \$1.42 million, increased 16% from 2001. The average price per cwt increased \$2.00 to \$6.90. **Austrian winter peas** value of production for the 2002 crop decreased 15% to \$187,000. The average price per cwt was \$9.35, down \$1.65 from last year. Lentils value of production dropped 23% from 2001 to \$1.86 million. The average price increased \$1.50 to \$12.50 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for **potatoes** was \$36.75 million, up 22% from the previous year. The average price per cwt was \$11.40, \$2.25 above 2001.

Sugar beets value of production for 2001 is estimated at \$44.62 million, down 3% from the previous year. The season average price jumped \$4.10 per cwt from 2000 to \$38.80.

The season average price for **all hay** decreased \$10.00 from last year to \$84.00 per ton. The value of production was down 8% to \$379.1 million.

Alfalfa hay's 2002 season average price was estimated at \$85.50, down \$10.00 from last year while **other hay's** season average price decreased \$11.00 to \$76.00.

Alfalfa Seed Production Down

Alfalfa seed production for 2002 was estimated at 1.383 million pounds, down 58% from the 3.30 million pounds produced last year. Harvested acreage, at 5,000, was down from 9,000 acres in 2001. The state average yield was estimated at 277 pounds per acre, down from 367 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yield averaged 412 pounds per acre, down from 477 pounds per acre in 2001 and non-irrigated yields averaged 56 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds per acre from last year.

Producers used an average of 3.0 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre harvested for alfalfa seed in 2002, compared with 2.1 gallons per acre in 2001. Leaf cutter bees were used on 72% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.6 gallons per acre and 12% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 2.0 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 5% more seed per acre irrigated acre and 105% more per non-irrigated acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 68% of this year's production, down 20 percentage points from last year. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 31% of the production and common certified varieties represented 1 percent.

The average price received for the 2002 crop was \$1.15 per pound, down 12 cents from last year's average price.

Montana's north-central district lead regional production by harvesting 36.2% of the state's alfalfa seed. The south-central district was the second largest production area with 28.0 percent.

ALFALFA SEED: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 2002

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,600	313	501,000	1,300	370	481,000	300	67	20,000
Northeast	600	235	141,000	200	650	130,000	400	28	11,000
Central	400	400	160,000	300	487	146,000	100	140	14,000
South Central	1,400	276	387,000	1,100	341	375,000	300	40	12,000
Southeast	1,000	194	194,000	200	720	144,000	800	63	50,000
Montana	5,000	277	1,383,000	3,100	412	1,276,000	1,900	56	107,000

2002 Wheat, Barley, and Oats County Estimates Now Available

The 2002 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops as well as crops that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practice of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/> or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. and Canadian Cattle

This data is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 31, 2003.

All cattle and calves in the **U.S. and Canada combined** totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2003, 1 percent below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.8 million head, were down slightly from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in **Canada** as of January 1, 2003, totaled 13.4 million head, down 3 percent from the 13.8 million on January 1, 2002, and 2 percent below the 13.6 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.7 million, was down 1 percent from the 5.7 million on January 1, 2002, but relatively unchanged from two years ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on February 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below February 1, 2002 and 11 percent below February 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Net placements were 2.06 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 433,000, 600-699 pounds were 587,000, 700-799 pounds were 706,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 409,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.97 million, down 5 percent from 2002 and down 4 percent from 2001. Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during January, 16 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001.

Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2003, unchanged from the previous January, but down 12 percent from December 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, up 6 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, increased 12 pounds from last year.

During January there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, the same as January 2002. The average live weight decreased 2 percent from last year to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, relatively unchanged from a year ago.

Beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, down 2 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 1,268 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 17.9 million pounds, 6 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 93,800 head, up

7 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 317 pounds, down 4 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year and a monthly record high. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, 1 percent above January 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from January 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 238,800 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

U.S. January Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.5 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from January 2002. December revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from December 2001. The December revision represented an increase of 0.6 percent or 70 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,608 pounds for January, 17 pounds above January 2002. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 56,000 head more than January 2002, and 4,000 head more than December 2002. 2002 Annual Milk Production Up 2.6 Percent from 2001

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2002 was 169.8 billion pounds, 2.6 percent above 2001. Revisions to 2001 production increased the annual total by less than 0.1 percent. Revised 2002 production was up 0.1 percent from last month's publication.

Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 18,571 pounds for 2002, 412 pounds above 2001. Average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 18 percent since 1993. The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2002 was 9.14 million head, up 0.3 percent from 2001. Average number of milk cows was revised down 1,000 head for 2001, and up 2,000 head for 2002 from the previous estimates.

Hired Workers Down One Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation s farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers

during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) regions.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) and Corn Belt I (Indiana, Illinois and Ohio) regions.

U.S. Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2003, up 10 percent from the

previous year. Ninety percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 197 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 16 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 48 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type show more reds and round whites but fewer long whites and russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 213 million cwt, is up 9 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2000 crop movement. Shrink and loss, of 20.4 million cwt so far this season, is up 3 percent from last year but 22 percent below the same date in 2000.

Processors in the 9 major States used 109 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 13 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 6-12, 2002 & January 12-18, 2003 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast I	9.58	10.02	7.80	8.36	8.69	9.12	9.46	10.03
Northeast II	8.71	9.16	6.88	8.34	7.95	8.83	8.87	9.83
Appalachian I	7.73	8.22	7.94	8.58	7.83	8.40	8.72	9.34
Appalachian II	6.72	7.34	7.18	7.87	6.93	7.60	7.29	7.98
Southeast	7.56	7.50	7.61	8.96	7.58	8.12	8.08	8.87
FL	8.15	7.80	8.55	8.30	8.20	7.87	8.97	8.81
Lake	10.22	10.51	8.26	9.44	8.94	9.65	9.91	10.54
Cornbelt I	9.03	9.68	9.22	8.64	9.15	9.01	9.75	9.72
Cornbelt II	8.62	9.24	9.41	9.01	9.26	9.08	9.74	9.50
Delta	7.90	8.56	7.21	7.89	7.61	8.30	7.95	8.63
Northern Plains	8.34	9.18	8.41	9.43	8.39	9.37	9.00	10.00
Southern Plains	7.82	8.13	7.37	8.51	7.57	8.29	8.05	8.85
Mountain I	8.02	8.51	7.74	8.17	7.81	8.25	8.34	8.53
Mountain II	8.54	9.15	8.48	8.73	8.51	8.85	9.15	9.66
Mountain III	7.57	6.92	8.48	8.22	7.85	7.48	8.42	8.12
Pacific	8.18	8.63	9.64	9.93	8.42	8.87	9.21	9.71
CA	8.25	8.20	9.69	10.10	8.36	8.46	9.22	9.38
HI 3/	9.36	9.31	3/	3/	9.33	9.36	10.90	11.04
US 4/	8.25	8.29	8.20	8.91	8.23	8.50	8.97	9.32

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

Grazing Rates Increase

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land rose for all methods in 2002. The shortage of pasture and the effects of the prolonged drought are continuing to contribute to the increased rates this year.

The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was \$15.10 per month, up 20 cents from last year. Cattle producers paid \$17.30 per cow-calf pair in 2002, up 60 cents from the previous year. The average per head rate was \$16.30 per month, up 30 cents from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was \$12.30 per month in 2002, up 40 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged \$14.20 per month, up 30 cents and per head rates averaged \$12.70 per month, up 30 cents from 2001.

All grazing fees are for privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM

basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

U.S. January Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during January 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 million were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, compared to 2,143 eggs in January 2002.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates	Hogs & Pigs
Farms & Land in Farms	
Honey Production	
Ag Prices Received	
Wheat & Barley Movement	

Peggy Stringer, State Statistician
Curtis E. Lund, Deputy State Statistician
Retta Johnson, Editor
10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov